

Appl. No. 10/540,943
Amdt. dated September 24, 2010
Responsive to Notice of Allowance of Aug. 5, 2010

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17. **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Previously presented)** A fuel filter comprising

- a filter housing,
- at least one fuel inlet (2) provided on the filter housing,
- at least one fuel outlet (3) provided on the filter housing,
- an element located in the filter housing which separates water from the fuel,
- at least one sump (51) located in the filter housing for collecting the water separated from the fuel,
- a water outlet (52) provided on the filter housing through which water drains from the sump,
- a valve (53) which opens and closes the water outlet (52), and
- means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from water which has been drained from the sump, said means for separating contaminants from water which has been drained from the sump being located inside a

Appl. No. 10/540,943

Amdt. dated September 24, 2010

Responsive to Notice of Allowance of Aug. 5, 2010

container and the container is mounted directly to the filter housing such that the container and filter housing are in direct contact with each other.

19. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said element includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with [[the]] a clean side of the filter element.

20. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said element includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with [[the]] a dirty side of the filter element.

21. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from water which has been drained from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

22. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 19, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from water which has been drained from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

Appl. No. 10/540,943
Amdt. dated September 24, 2010
Responsive to Notice of Allowance of Aug. 5, 2010

23. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from water which has been drained from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

24. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet for separating contaminants from water which has been drained from the sump comprises a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment.

Claim 25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material.

Claim 27. **(Canceled)**

28. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.

29. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material is at least partly spongelike.

Appl. No. 10/540,943
Amdt. dated September 24, 2010
Responsive to Notice of Allowance of Aug. 5, 2010

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.

Claims 31-35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising at least one water level sensor, located in the region of the sump (51), for controlling the water outlet.

37. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 36, further comprising two water level sensors.

Claims 38-41. **(Canceled)**